

Vol. 2.

FRIDAY:—MARCH, 4th, 1898.

No. 8

NEWS AND NOTES.

The key note of the Conference two years ago, as pointed out by Rev. H.C. Velte in the address of welcome, when Mr Mott was present was Bible Study. Last year the keynote was Prayer. This year, as we think all who were present will agree, the chief emphasis was upon Personal work.

The sequence above sketched is thoroughly logical. The Bible is the text book of prayer; and Bible Study naturally comes first. After Bible study and indeed along with it the prayer-life of the Christian is sure to be developed. But the student of God's Word who is also a man of prayer will never consent to be idle. Whatever his occupation, he will be impelled to speak to others about the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour from sin. Here then we have Personal Work. The Convention of this year has done well to emphasize this. This logical sequence was not thought out beforehand, but this Divine Spirit led to its being developed. This one fact seems to us to furnish very clear evidence that as in previous years, so this year the controlling power in the Conference was the Holy Spirit.

A cablegram was sent to the great Student Volunteer Convention in session at Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A. A telegram was also sent to the C. E. Convention in session at Calcutta. The words were, 'God bless you, Pray for us, Lahore Convention.' A reply was received, after the Convention had closed, as follows, 'Good wishes reciprocated and prayer asked, Jude 2.'

It was announced that there is every probability that next cold season Rev. Andrew Murray, Rev F.B. Meyer, Preliminary Webb Pooloo and John L. Mott Esq will make a tour in India, holding Conventions at about twenty different places. The plan is to hold meetings in at least two places at each center, one of which will be conducted in the vernacular. The Lahore Convention unanimously agreed to urge that this proposed plan be, without fail, carried out. We look for great results from this special Mission and we would bespeak the interest and prayers of all Christian people in order that undertaking it a means of great blessing to the Civilian, the Student, the non-Christian, the Christian and the missionary Conventions of India.

In connection with these annual conventions it has been strongly felt that students should be more directly represented on the sectional Committee. Accordingly N. C. Ghose Esq., B. A., President of the Ludhiana Y. M. C. A. and M. L. Rallia Ram Esq., B. A.

of Lahore have been chosen as members of the Committee.

It has further been felt that the formal co-operation and active assistance of the Missions of the Panjab should be secured in connection with all student work and especially in connection with arrangements for the annual conferences. The Committee has therefore, decided to approach the Scotch Mission, the American United Presbyterian Mission, the Church Mission, and the American Presbyterian Mission with the request that each Mission appoint one of their number to act as a member of an advisory Committee, this Committee to give advice from time to time on matters connected with student work, which may be referred to them and to act with the Sectional Committee in deciding all matters connected with the Annual Conferences. It should be explained that the word 'sectional' is used in relation to the Central Executive Committee of the S. V. M and Y. M. C. A. and describes the Committee of this Province.

We believe that there is a great work to be done among students. We are planning for the time, which it is hoped will soon come, when the practical work will be done by students themselves through their own representatives. It is the Missions however, who are as yet training all students and their active sympathy is absolutely

essential in order to secure the best results.

Further these Annual Conventions are for Missionaries and other Christian workers as well as students. The immense spiritual uplift is for all and the aim is that all should feel that they have through their representatives a part in arranging for them. We trust that this matter when formally proposed will be sympathetically taken up by the Missions.

"Her iniquity is pardoned; she hath received double for all her sins." Isa. 40: 2.

This passage should read 'a double for all her sins.' It alludes to an ancient method of settling accounts, or cancelling debts, when the debtor had run up a long score of charges upon the roll parchment then in use. When payment in full was made it was the custom that the creditor should double or fold up the roll, seal it, and nail it to the wall of the discharged debtor's dwelling. This was called giving him 'a double,' and was equivalent to a receipt in full.

It is in allusion to this that the apostle in Col. 2: 14, when speaking of the forgiveness of sins, says, 'Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.'

The following from the Christian Patriot note regarding Lord Kinnaid who was in the Punjab in December and has since visited other parts of India is of general interest.

'Now that Lord Kinnaid is in our midst, a few facts concerning him may interest our readers. Arthur Fitzgerald Kinnaid, eleventh Baron Kinnaid, was born in 1847, and was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. 'The earnest solicitude of his parents for the higher interests of their children—as indicated by Dr. Donald Fraser in his memoir of Mary Jane, Lady Kinnaid—had the happiest result in the development in their son and heir of a strong sterling character which has moulded his whole career. Whilst sympathising heartily in all evangelical endeavours, he has always concentrated his personal force and energy on certain branches of effort which he has made peculiarly his own.' Lord Kinnaid is no narrow sectarian. He has a soul above sects and denominations. In Scotland, Lord Kinnaid is a Presbyterian. In London he is an Episcopalian—strongly Evangelical, and profoundly concern-

ed in the simplicity and purity of the Reformed faith.

Russian Mission to the Nestorians.

BY THE REV. W. A. SHEDD.

At last the long-expected advent of Russian missionaries to the Nestorian Christians is an accomplished fact. On May 25th two priests of the Russian Orthodox Church reached Urumia. One, the Rev. Victor Michaelovitch, is a typical Russian in appearance and is said to be the son of a member of the Holy Synod, while the other is by race a Syrian, the son of emigrants who left Persia after the Russo-Persian war in 1828, and settled in the region of Erivan. Such a mission has long been expected and is the response to many petitions by the Nestorians. A gray-haired man remarked, not long ago, that he remembered being told, when a mere boy, that the Russians would surely be here by Christmas. Individual Nestorians have often urged Russian officials to take steps in aid of their nation, and even the Emperor himself has been interviewed in this cause. Petitions have been sent more than once to the Holy Synod. The reasons which have led the Russians to delay are doubtless contained in the reply said to have been given, not many years ago, to a Nestorian bishop by the Ober-Procurator, the famous Pobiedonostzeff. He told the bishop in effect that his Government was not accustomed to send out missionaries, that they extended their rule and their religion together, and that British, French and American Governments might ask the Shah to allow missionaries to work in Persia, but that Russia was too proud to ask such a favor.

The missionaries are reaping an easy harvest. In less than a month at least 500 families, comprising some 2,500 souls, have been enrolled in the book which is to convey to the Holy Synod the names of those who are anxious to unite with the Russian Church. Only a beginning has been made, and Christendom need not be surprised to hear that one of her most ancient branches has been absorbed in the Greek communion. It is an ecclesiastical landslide; and it is not clear that any resistance can be expected within the Old Church itself, though very likely the movement will not maintain its present momentum. The causes are not in the least spiritual and the movement is purely political, being so regarded by every one here, Moslems as well as Christians. The matter was put in a nutshell the other day by a priest of the Old Church who told me frankly that he would accept whatever Church wielded the

biggest club—in other words, would put an end to Moslem domination. There is not the faintest pretense of any preference for the religious teaching and forms of the Russian Church. The venerated names of Nestorius, Diodorus and Theodore with their followers are readily anathematized, and the shibboleths of centuries are forgotten in the frantic hope that the Czar will give political aid.

The excitement into which the people are thrown is indescribable. The priests were received in transports of joy by thousands of people, and ever since crowds have thronged their doors. The air is full of the wildest rumors, and the most impossible hopes agitate the village folk. It is a very general belief that the priest at the head of the mission is a son of the Grand Duke Michael, and by some it is maintained that he is no less a personage than the Emperor himself. Hourly bulletins describe the movements of the Russian troops. A few days spent in the villages where the missionaries are enrolling their converts have given me an unbounded belief in the powers of Oriental mendacity and credulity.

In such a whirlwind of excitement it is plain enough that no common courage is needed to enable men to stand. It is too soon to prophesy the final result; and I will only say that the faith and courage of not a few of our people have rebuked my doubts and made me ashamed of my fears. The test we have long expected has come, and the work of years will be brought to the proof. I for one, do not fear the result; but we all implore your earnest prayers for our little church here in this time of hard trial.

Urumia, Persia.

Current Thought.

CONDITION OF CHINA.

A darker, more ominous cloud never hung over the vast possessions of the 'Great Pure Dynasty' than that which looms up toward the Northwest. Events seem to be hastening with astonishing rapidity the dissolution of an empire that was highly civilized when Europe was barbarian, and whose chief scholar edited the literary productions of his ancestors before Rome had merged from the obscurity of a disputed environment. Never was a nation in a more helpless condition than that in which the numerically strongest empire on earth finds itself near the end of the Nineteenth century. The strongest, and most astute statesmanship, apart from some show of force, avails nothing against strong navies and disciplined

troops. the present-ness of it that of shallow disregard men who tion of life relation v

China ing and ready to repairs, t old game each other antagonis avert the enable t together tion and tion.

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troops. Bitterly must the last ruler of the present dynasty regret the obtuseness of intellect, and mental stupidity, that could listen to the advice of shallow-brained makers of essays, and disregard the views of a few far-sighted men who long ago urged the adoption of liberal measures and a closer relation with Christian powers.

China has seen the timbers weakening and the roof of Munchau fabric ready to fall, and has blindly delayed repairs, trusting to diplomacy and the old game of playing the powers against each other, in the hope that mutual antagonisms of jealous nations would avert the threatened dissolution, and enable the weak structure to hold together by the old policy of isolation and hostility to foreign intervention.

But the shrewd Muscovite has long known the inherent weakness and gilded worthlessness of the entire structure, and has kept a paternal control over the interests of the 'Sire of Ten Thousand Years' until the time should be ripe for the possession of as much of the northern part of the empire as may be needed to subserve the permanent requirement of Russia's Eastern policy. Not for nothing was Japan roughly ordered to her own domains. The Muscovite was far-seeing, and has exacted compensation for what may have seemed to superficial investigators a kindly display of disinterested friendship. Pay day is here, and the bills are not only ruinous to the existence of the 'Lone Man's' dominions, but presented with an imperious demand that admits of no rebate. The murder of two German Catholic missionaries was the occasion of the incisive action of the three powers, Russia, Germany and France. The missionaries were murdered in the province of Shantung, and it is affirmed that the Governor, Li Ping Hang, whose anti-foreign disposition is well known, was relax in affording legal protection, and is indirectly responsible for the death of the missionaries. As soon as the facts were known, Germany sent three gun-boats to take possession of the fine harbor, Ko Chau, on the North-eastern part of Shantung Province. The official in command at once surrendered the forts, and has since, to save his head, entered the service of the Germans in charge of the forts. But this easy acquisition of territory seems to have whetted the appetite of the three strong powers, and the startling news comes that a combination has been formed, and under this formal alliance Russia is to have the northern part of the empire, down to the Shantung Province, which is to go to Germany, while France is to have Formosa, and

the Province of Fukien. These are marvelous but not wholly unexpected results to those who have been rightly informed as to the miserable, rotten condition of the so-called system under which millions are ground down to feed the cupidity of lecherous officials. I have just returned from a trip into the interior, and find, on the part of all classes, the most bitter denunciation of the rulers of the people. The majority of the people would rejoice to see this province under the control of the English.

The action of the three powers includes thus far the claim to about one half of the empire. What will Britannia, the 'Mistress of the Sea,' say to this sudden division of great spoil without being consulted? and will the dispossessed Japanese tamely submit to a violent wrenching from their grasp of the island of Formosa, which a hundred millions of dollars could not purchase? Vast complications are opened up that will have issues which can only be dimly foreshadowed. Will the ruler of the Blackhaired race fight for his vast realm, which includes not only millions of acres of finest lands in high state of cultivation, but vast areas of coal, iron, ore, lead, which have never been worked, besides the existence of gold which has been found in several provinces. What possible show would his undisciplined hordes have against the disciplined troop that the contracting powers could quickly bring to bear against him? An army of 30,000 soldiers could walk into Peking, and go in to every part of the empire with no more real opposition than a cyclone would encounter in the obstruction of a hay-fortress. Will the Emperor have enough sense to abdicate? Before the abutment of force, harassed by foes without, and suffering from internal dissensions, the Emperor, an inexperienced youth, is truly an object of pity. The dismemberment of China is inevitable. Long centuries of despotic rule have ground the people down to a homogeneous apathy from which there is no up-lift apart from foreign intervention. A change from the Munchau dynasty to a purely Chinese dynasty means to the vast body of the agricultural class only a change of riders. The trappings might be acceptable to the literary classes, but what about feed and rest for the horse?

The deep corruption that everywhere pervades the administration of Imperial power in this Empire is the most striking proof of the inefficiency of mere human ethics to elevate any people. In Confucianism we have the best ethical creed, the purest code of morals ever framed by uninspired man. Scholars teach it, officials exalt it; teachers expound it; all violate it.

High official positions are bought and sold. A man arrested on some slight charges is as helpless, without money, as a sinking ship before a gale. The vast mass of the people are looked upon as existing for the convenience of the 'Son of Heaven,' to be taxed at his pleasure, and enlightened through Imperial proclamations.

Any man bold enough to suggest any doubt as to Imperial infallibility, and a modest request for some added reasons for extra taxation, would be considered fortunate if given an option as to manner of committing suicide. Thousands of prisoners languish in miserable prisons, whose release could be purchased within twenty-four hours, if the money were forthcoming. The vast majority of the male population of this province would cut off their eues and throw up their hats if England would substitute her own rulers for Munchau oppression. To millions of Christians the great question will be, How will the impending change, the long anticipated control of China by Christian countries, affect the interests of that mighty gospel, which alone can save by its regenerating power? To those who have fought for nearly every church and chapel and are bitterly opposed only by the class of proud literary rulers that have antagonized every move forwards, the relief will be inexpressibly great and the thousands who have long been secret believers will come forward, when fear of bitter persecution is forever removed. With China thrown open to the Christian church and full religious liberty granted, there is not a shadow of doubt but that the present force of missionaries and native preachers and helpers will be taxed to the utmost to instruct the thousands and hundreds of thousands that will apply for admission to our churches. I thoroughly believe this will be the case, and I could give reasons for my belief.

Will the mighty change from Asiatic to European control of this vast empire, be accomplished by peaceable measures, or will the beneficent change be brought about by prolonged and bitter struggles, precipitated by the mutual jealousies of the Great Powers and prolonged by the last despairing effort of the nearly defunct Munchau dynasty? The night of idolatry will pass. 'The morning cometh,' and with that morning will come the mightiest triumph in the history of the church, when the hundreds of millions of China will exchange the trumperies of Buddhism for the eternal verities of the Christian Faith.

(Rev.) ALBERT A. FULTON.

The Interior.

Telegrams.

London, Feb. 23.

In the House of Commons Mr. Samuel Smith moved that the expenditure on the frontier operations should not be chargeable entirely to India.

Lord George Hamilton admitted that the mass of people in India were very poor, but their condition was improving, and the Indian Government had telegraphed that the prospects of the coming year justified the anticipation that the expenditure could be met without additional taxation or undue increase in the deficit. Lord George Hamilton added that it is impossible to contend that the operations were an Imperial matter.

Sir Henry Fowler dissented and, moreover, said that the resolution was wise as a matter of policy.

The motion, on being put to the vote, was negatived by 188 against 96.

London, Feb. 23.

The *Times*' Pekin correspondent states that China, replying to the representations made by Japan, has informed the latter that Russia has declared that the withdrawal of the Russian fleet from Port Arthur in the spring would be opposed to the interests of China and Korea.

London, Feb. 23.

M. Zola has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs. The sentence is the severest that the French law permits, and has been hailed with frantic enthusiasm in Paris. Throughout the trial the audience was allowed to cheer and hoot unrestrainedly.

London, Feb. 23.

News from Uganda, dated 29th January, states that Major Macdonald has defeated and dispersed Mwanga's forces.

Poona, Feb. 23.

At the Sessions Court, five men, three plague makadams, one policeman on plague duty Hindu, and one Eurasian plague inspector were tried for stealing Rs. 4,090 from the house of a woman who had been sent to the Hindu Plague Hospital. The trial lasted three days, and the Judge, the Hon'ble Mr. Crowe, sentenced the three makadams, one to a year, two to 18 months, and the policeman to two years' rigorous imprisonment. The Eurasian Plague Inspector was acquitted.

Calcutta, Feb. 23.

The unveiling of Lord Roberts' statue on the 2nd March will be the occasion of a grand ceremonial; all troops in garrison will parade, including those from Dum Dum and Barrackpore, and the Volunteers will also take part. It is hoped that Sir George White will be able to be present.

Bombay, Feb. 24.

There were 175 cases and 156 deaths from plague reported yesterday.

Yesterday the Governor visited several hospitals and health camps.

No more European troops will be employed in Bombay, but two additional companies of native troops will be detailed for plague duty. Miss MacDougall, a European nurse, who came from Home, has died by plague. A patient coughed some sputum, which entered her eye.

London, Feb. 24.

The guarantee of the Chinese loan includes the unpledged portion of the customs and part of the *likin*.

The *Times*' Pekin correspondent states that the Taotai of Yenchan, who was removed in 1895 in connection with the outrage on Bishop

Anzer, has been re-appointed, and replaces the Taotai who was dismissed in connection with the late murder of German missionaries. Germany has demanded the immediate cancelling of the appointment.

Mr. Curzon, in the House of Commons, read a Note from Count Mouravieff declaring that any port Russia occupies in China will be open to the ships and commerce of the world.

London, Feb. 24.

Lord Salisbury, in the House of Lords said that M. Hanotaux had since informed Sir Edmund Monson positively that no French force had entered Sokoto.

London, Feb. 24.

The London Press, discussing the sentence passed on M. Zola, are unanimous in the opinion that it is a triumph of military over civil power.

London, Feb. 24.

There was almost a panic to-day on the New York bourse owing to strong rumours that the enquiry now proceeding, is proving that the explosion on the cruiser "Maine" was not accidental.

Poona, Feb. 24.

On hearing of the death of Miss Florence Morgan, Her Majesty the Queen telegraphed, through her Private Secretary:—The Queen-Empress has heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Florence Morgan, and desires to express true sympathy with all who suffer from her loss.

London, Feb. 25.

Mr. Curzon, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Imperial Government bears the expenses of the Indian troops sent to Mombassa.

London, Feb. 25.

Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a question, said he believed the Dum-Dum bullets were not opposed to international law and the customs of war.

Calcutta, Feb. 25.

A large Zakka Khel jirga of some 85 men, was expected at Jamrud to-day, and 65 more representatives should arrive to-day, having been delayed by the death of one of their party.

Chikkai, the once notorious freebooter of Kurram Valley, has been very ill. He now proposes making a pilgrimage to Mecca as soon as he is fit to travel.

Bombay, Feb. 25.

The number of deaths registered in Bombay last week was 1,974, being 221 less than the previous week, 324 more than the week ending 23rd February 1897, and 1216 more than the corresponding period of the previous five years.

There were 1,082 deaths from plague, 175 less than the previous week. The death rate per thousand from all causes was 123.20.

There were 122 attacks and 155 deaths from plague yesterday.

London, Feb. 26.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that M. Hanotaux had informed Sir Edward Monson that France had not the slightest intention of imitating Germany by seizing a naval base in China.

London, Feb. 26.

Negotiations in connection with the Greek loan have been concluded. Britain, France and Russia guarantee four millions sterling at 3 per cent and the remainder at a higher rate of interest is without foreign guarantee.

Bombay Feb. 26.

There were 207 cases and 162 deaths from plague yesterday; total mortality from all causes being 308 as against 206 last year.

London, Feb. 26.

Reuter wires from Freetown, that a general rising has taken place in the Sierra Leone hinterland, and that the officers of the frontier police there have been attacked. One hundred men of the West India Regiment have been despatched to the scene of the disturbances.

London, Feb. 26.

The Transvaal Volksraad has rescinded the resolution permitting coolies to reside and trade in the outside towns of the Republic, Government being advised that the resolution stood in the way of the impending test case and immense crowds assembled all along the route and acclaimed Their Majesties. No trace has yet been discovered of the assailants.

London, Feb. 27.

The attempt on the life of the King of Greece was made while His Majesty was driving outside Athens; there were two assailants who were both armed with rifles, and nine shots altogether were fired by them. His Majesty displayed great courage, and sought only to shield his daughter, who was with him, from the bullets.

London, Feb. 27.

An attempt was made yesterday to shoot the King of Greece whilst driving in the streets of Athens: the attendant who was with His Majesty was wounded, but His Majesty escaped unhurt.

London, Feb. 27.

The British brigade on the Nile has been ordered to move southward in consequence of news received that the Emir Mahmud is preparing to attack the camp at Athara.

Calcutta, Feb. 27.

A telegram from Peshawar states that the Sipah Afridis have paid up in full the balance of their share of the general fine viz. 48 breech loaders and Rs. 3,000.

Sir William Lockhart had an interview with the Zakka Khel jirga this morning. The jirga consisted of Tirah, Maidan and Bara Zakkas, the Khyber Zakkas not being represented. Kwas Khan and Wali Muhammad Khan still hold aloof, maintaining that they are afraid to attend. A further tribal deputation has gone to bridge them in Sir William Lockhart told the assembled Zakkas that they had seven days to comply or to make a substantial start in the compliance with the terms; in default their country would again be invaded and held for six months at the very least. The men seemed amenable, but made the usual jirga objections they allowed that they had suffered severely during the campaign, members of the other sections say that the Zakkas have their rifles handy and will surrender them in a day or two. The Rajul Kukis still hold aloof, but the Khyber Kukis and Malkdin Khels profess to be prepared to pay for them, on condition that they may seize their land in the vicinity of the Khyber and hold it as security. Now that the Zakkas are in, the situation is considered most satisfactory. The Zakkas are little tough wiry-looking men, but poorly clad.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributed articles on important themes and items of news will be thankfully received. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Nur Afshan, Ludhiana.

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